

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 01993 252245Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SSC-01 AID-05 PC-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
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P R 252225Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7824
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1993

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PDIP PBOR ES
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER RESIGNS

1. RADIO ANNOUNCED APRIL 25 THAT FONMIN ALVARO ERNESTO MARTINEZ' RESIGNATION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED SAME MORNING BY PRESIDENT ROMERO. MARTINEZ HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED AS ABLE, WELL-QUALIFIED MINISTER AND WAS WIDELY RUMORED TO BE ONE OF SEVERAL MINISTERS TO BE REPLACED DURING JANUARY 1, 1978 CHANGES. HOWEVER, CHANGE AT THIS POINT UNEXPECTED AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE LINKED TO RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR BORDER DISPUTE AND SIGN OF DIVISION WITHIN GOES ON THIS ISSUE. MARTINEZ IS KNOWN HARD-LINER ON BORDER ISSUE, BUT RESIGNATION REPORTEDLY PROMPTED BY PURELY PERSONAL (AND SOMEWHAT PETTY) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FONMIN AND PRESIDENT ROMERO.

2. ANOTHER AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR DEVINE THAT ACTUAL REASON FOR RESIGNATION WAS FOREIGN MINISTER'S ADAMENT REFUSAL TO ATTEND FAREWELL PARTY IN HONOR OF DEPARTING AMBASSADOR FROM PARAGUAY (THIS REFUSAL
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RESULT OF LONG-STANDING CONFLICT). PRESIDENT APPARENTLY LEARNED OF THIS DIPLOMATIC SNUB AND STATED THAT HE AND SELECT MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD WOULD ATTEND AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL. FOREIGN MINISTER FELT THAT IN THIS AND OTHER OCCASIONS HE HAD BEEN UNDERCUT BY PRESIDENT IN HIS JOB AND SUBMITTED RESIGNATION.

3. PRESIDENT ALLEGEDLY REMARKED "YOU ARE NOT SUBMITTING YOUR RESIGNATION, I AM DEMANDING IT".

4. COMMENT. REPLACEMENT FOR MARTINEZ AS FOREIGN MINISTER EXPECTED TO BE JOSE ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ PORTH. RODRIGUEZ, 62 YEARS OF AGE, IS WELL-KNOWN LAWYER AND DIPLOMAT. KNOWN TO BE VERY CONSERVATIVE. RODRIGUEZ WAS WIDELY RUMORED AS POSSIBLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS UNDER MOLINA GOVERNMENT. HE WAS ALSO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR THE SMALL SALVADORAN POPULAR PARTY (PPS) IN 1972. FULL BIO DATA FOLLOWS.
DEVINE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PBOR, PGOV, ES, (MARTINEZ ZEPEDA, ALVARO ERNESTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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